

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
receiving input from a user;
5 receiving an access key from a medium, wherein the access key includes uncorrected data and associated error correction information having one or more errors; and
controlling access to the medium based on the input and the uncorrected data.
10
2. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling access to the medium comprises:
invoking a device driver of a storage device to read the uncorrected data from the medium without modification from application of the error correction
15 information; and
comparing the uncorrected data and the input.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling access to the medium includes installing a software application from the medium onto a computing
20 system.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling access to the medium includes executing a software application from the medium.
- 25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling access to the medium includes:
copying content from the medium to a second medium;
applying the error correction information to the uncorrected data to produce
a second access key; and
30 copying the second access key to the second medium.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling access to the medium includes producing an audio output based on content stored on the medium.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the access key includes:
5 receiving a first access key and a second access key from the medium, where the first and second access keys each include uncorrected data; comparing the uncorrected data of the first access key to the uncorrected data of the second access key; and selectively using the first access key based on the comparison.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the error correction information includes error correction information selected from an error correction code, a cyclic redundancy code, and a Cross Interleaved Reed-Solomon Code.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein controlling access to the medium comprises decrypting digital content contained within the medium based on the uncorrected data and the input.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the digital content comprises at least one of a software application, audio data, or video data.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the access key includes decrypting the access key.

12. The method of claim 1, further including selecting the access key from a plurality of access keys, where each of the access keys includes data and associated error correction information having one or more errors.

13. The method of claim 12, where selecting the access key includes:
30 assigning a random number to the medium, wherein the random number is uniquely associated with the medium;

selecting the access key from the plurality of access keys based on the random number;

generating a hash value from the random number and the selected access key; and

5 decrypting content of the medium using the hash value.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the uncorrected data includes accurate error correction information for the uncorrected data.

10 15. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for causing a programmable processor to:

 receive input from a user;

 read an access key from a medium, wherein the access key includes uncorrected data and associated error correction information; and

15 control access to the medium based on the input and the uncorrected data.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the processor to invoke a device driver of a storage device to read the uncorrected data from the medium without modification based on the error
20 correction information, and to compare the uncorrected data and the input.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the processor to install a software application from the medium onto a computing system based on the input and the uncorrected data.

25

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the processor to execute a software application from the medium based on the input and the uncorrected data.

30 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the processor to produce an audio output from content stored on the medium based on the input and the uncorrected data.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the error correction information includes error correction information selected from an error correction code, a cyclic redundancy code, and a Cross Interleaved Reed-Solomon Code.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the instructions cause the processor to decrypt content from the medium based on the uncorrected data set.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the uncorrected data includes accurate error correction information for the uncorrected data, and where the processor corrects errors in the uncorrected data with the accurate error correction information.

23. A computer-readable medium, comprising:
an access key having uncorrected data and associated error correction information having one or more errors;
digital content; and
an executable software application to control access to digital content based on the uncorrected data.

24. The data storage device of claim 23, wherein the digital content comprises a software program.

25. The data storage device of claim 23, wherein the digital content is selected from one of an audio file and a video file.

26. The data storage device of claim 23, wherein the error correction information includes an incorrect cyclic redundancy code.

27. The data storage device of claim 23, wherein the error correction information causes the uncorrected data to be changed when the computer-readable medium is copied.

5 28. The data storage device of claim 23, wherein the uncorrected data includes accurate error correction information that corrects errors in the uncorrected data.

29. A method, comprising:
10 generating an access key having uncorrected data and incorrect error correction information; and
 associating digital content and the access key on a computer-readable medium.

15 30. The method of claim 29, wherein associating content and the access key comprises communicating the digital content and the access key through a transmission medium.

20 31. The method of claim 29, wherein associating the content and the access key comprises storing the digital content and the access key on a storage medium.

25 32. The method of claim 29, further including applying the incorrect error correction information to the uncorrected data when the access key is copied from the medium to a second medium.

33. The method of claim 29, further comprising:
 receiving input from a user;
 generating an encryption key based on the input and the access key;
30 encrypting the digital content based on the encryption key; and
 associating the encrypted digital content with the access key.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein associating the encrypted digital content with the access key comprises communicating the encrypted digital content and the access key through a transmission medium.

5 35. The method of claim 29, wherein the digital content includes an audio file.

36. The method of claim 29, wherein the digital content includes an application file.

10

37. The method of claim 29, wherein generating the access key includes generating uncorrected data having accurate error correction information.